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ASG collects nearly \$6 million in local funds last month

The American Samoa Government made off with cash collections totaling \$5,981,501 last month, which is a nice increase from the \$5,301,336 it collected in October 2006 and \$4,338,546 in October 2005.

According to the Treasury Department's monthly financial overview report for local funds, more than half - 16 to be exact - of ASG departments, agencies, and funding sources managed to increase their cash collections last month compared to the same time last year.

Leading the way was the Tax Office which brought in \$1,773,987, an increase of nearly \$500,000 from the \$1,296,408 it collected last October and the \$1,389,849 it raked in during October 2005.

But the most notable increase came from Legal Affairs which went from collecting a mere \$1,977 last October to \$21,472 last month - a whopping increase of over 900%

The Tax Reserve also came through with collections totaling \$653,708 which was \$100,000 more than the \$523,749 it brought in the same time last year. Public Health increased its collections by nearly 300% from \$1,777 last October to \$5,310 several weeks ago.

Workmen's Compensation brought in \$119,451 while the Customs Division of the Treasury Department boasted the largest cash collection of over \$2 million, up from the \$1,923,527 it collected last October.

Customs bond collections increased by over \$70,000 to \$224,340 while Weights and Measures, which didn't collect a cent last October, pulled in \$730 last month. Traffic violations followed suit, bringing in \$4,275. And while the amount may seem small compared to the others, this is quite an achievement, considering the fact that traffic violations was penniless in cash collections last October.

The airport also increased their collections to \$104,210 compared to the \$78,256 it collected the same time last year.

The following is a list of other ASG departments, agencies, and funding sources that can be credited for last month's superb collections performance:

Source	2007	2006
Immigration Office	\$170,192	\$145,335
Procurement	\$21,174	\$17,286
OMV	\$90,705	\$89,316
DPS	\$731	\$639
AG's Office	\$26,860	\$19,300
Grants fund	\$21,303	\$20,748

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at
<http://www.americansamoa.gov>

ASG reduces spending by \$1.2 million last month

The American Samoa Government spent approximately \$1,208,454 less in local funds last month compared to the same time last year.

This is according to the Treasury's Monthly Financial Overview Report which was submitted to Governor Togiola Tulafono from ASG Treasurer Velega Savali earlier this month.

Last October, the ASG spent a total of \$8,351,354 but that figure dropped to \$7,142,900 last month.

The savings can be credited to certain ASG departments, agencies, and funding sources that controlled spending and cut down on expenses like the Governor's Office which went from spending \$354,685 last October to \$297,954 last month.

Other departments that followed suit include the Department of Commerce, which cut their spending by more than half (from \$29,755 to only \$11,902), Department of Marine and Wildlife Resources (from \$44,583 to \$36,611), Department of Administrative Services (from \$130,160 to \$73,319), the Arts Council (from \$1,894 to \$0), Election Office (from \$48,111 to \$25,135), and the Budget Office which went from spending \$60,760 to \$59,707.

But the largest savings came from funds transfers which dropped from a whopping \$2,476,415 last October to only \$349,728 last month.

According to Velega, the American Samoa Government should expect to collect more in revenues later this year as the territory approaches the busy holiday season.

Fono guesthouse reopens after undergoing renovation work

Lt. Governor Ipulasi Sunia was joined by District Governors Tufele Li'amatua and Gaoteote, Senate members, several faipule, and a handful of ASG department and agency directors this morning at the Fono Samoan fale to celebrate and witness the completion of a six-month renovation project that cost an estimated \$80,000. (Other Cabinet members, including Governor Togiola Tulafono, were on the other end of the island at the Tafuna International Airport for the official dedication of Runway 8/26).

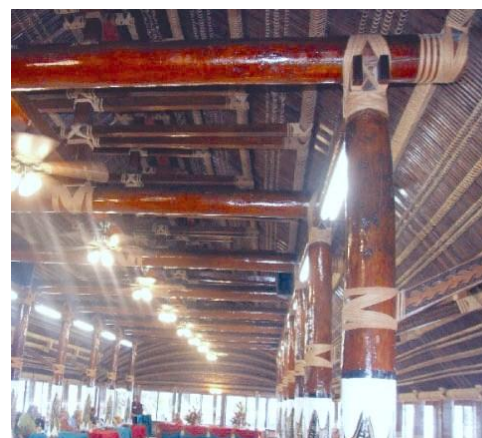
The re-opening of the Fono guest fale was made official through a brief traditional celebration that included the 'ava ceremony and led by Maoputasi faipule Rep. Paopaoailua Joe Fiaui.

The renovation project saw the extensive use of the traditional 'afa which has been used to accent everything from the poles to the ceiling fixtures of the Samoan fale.

Anyone visiting the Fono guesthouse can witness the extraordinary result of hard and meticulous work as evidenced in details that include the careful wrapping the 'afa around the poles and the joints, in place of the more modern hinges, screws, and nails. The end result is truly a remarkable site.

The work was carried out by a crew of six men led by head 'tufuga' Faleagafulu Filipo Tauai whom Senate President Lolo Moliga thanked for a job well done.

In his speech, Lolo expressed his gratitude to Governor Togiola and Lt. Governor Ipulasi and said that although money was tight, the Fono guestfale was slowly deteriorating and repair work needed to be carried out.



Here's a glimpse at the new and improved Fono guestfale which re-opened after undergoing repair work for six-months.

ASG RADIO PROGRAM

With:
Gov. Togiola Tulafono

**On: Showers of Blessings –
FM 104.7**

Saturdays @ 7a.m.

Call 699-8123 or 699-8124

Off-island medical referral program reinstated

The LBJ Medical Center decided during a board meeting on Friday, Nov. 17, that the off-island medical referral program will be reinstated using funds from fiscal year 2008.

This good news comes after the LBJ explained to the Fono several weeks ago that the program was discontinued because there wasn't enough funding to cover it, and that any patients traveling off island for referral treatment would have to pay for the costs out of pocket.

The use of FY 2008 funds is a must, considering that the LBJ accumulated an overrun of nearly \$3 million during FY 2007.

The LBJ has \$2 million allocated from their FY 2008 budget for the off-island medical referral program, and they are expected to submit a supplemental request to Governor Togiola Tulafono to cover the overrun from FY 2007.

Under the off-island medical referral program, the cost of transportation and treatment will be covered depending on the availability of funds, and it is reported that the annual budget amount will be broken down into monthly allowances to ensure that the program can and will remain active throughout the entire year.

The bottom line is, there isn't enough money to cover every single patient. LBJ sources say that the hospital's off-island medical referral program committee has been asked to prioritize the patient lists according to need, meaning that those with the greatest need will be placed on top of the list.

The off-island medical referral program refers patients to New Zealand, Hawaii, and will soon be able to refer patients to St. Luke's Medical Center in Manila, Philippines which treats patients from all over the globe including the United States, ASia, Micronesia, Europe and the Middle East.

The official Thanksgiving 2007 message from Governor Togiola:

On this Thanksgiving Day celebration, we thank God for family. All our families. We say thank you that we are able to gather with family here at home. And we call to mind all our family members who are not with us because of school, business and family commitment away from home. We say thank you God for family and His countless blessings.

We offer a special thank you and prayer to our military family – our brave sons and daughters who have answered the call to defend America and American Samoa and our way of life. We give thanks for the sacrifices they and their families are making for all of us.

As we begin the season of giving, we give thanks to God for protecting our American Samoa family. May His guidance renew our appreciation and gratitude for family and friends who make a great impact in our daily lives.

Mary, Lieutenant Governor Ipulasi and Mrs. Elisapeta Sunia, and all of our families, join me in wishing you all a safe and Happy Thanksgiving holiday. Ia manuia le Aso Fa'afetai.

God's Peace and Blessing,
TOGIOLA T.A. TULAFONO
Governor

HISTORICAL NOTES

By: Stan Sorensen, Historian, Office of the Governor

On November 21, 1897, "A week before his departure, the Hawaiian Historical Society asked [William Churchill, former U.S. Consul in Apia] to lecture on Samoan origins at the YMCA in Honolulu. The talk was entertaining, Churchill delivering it while leaning on a *to'oto'o* staff, Samoan orator fashion. When the talk was over, he was elected an honorary member of the society. The members eyed his prized Samoan war club, Malietoa's [Laupepa's] gift, and suggested that it would make a fine contribution to the Bishop Museum. Churchill 'only smiled.'"

On November 21, 2000, American Samoa's Congressional Delegate Faleomavaega Eni Fa'aua Hunkin received 5,500 votes (61.1%), while challenger Gus Hannemann received 3,505 (38.9%).

On November 22, 1901, "By invitation of Leiato, County Chief of two of the largest counties of the District of Falelima East, and his people---being the largest number of chiefs and people under any of the County Chiefs of the United States Naval Station, Tutuila---Captain B.F. Tilley and wife, accompanied by other guests, including myself, visited the Town of Fagaitua...for the purpose of attending a feast given in honor of, and the presentation of a house to, Captain Tilley. There was a most enthusiastic welcome extended by the people who are building the McKinley Memorial Road referred to in other letters sent by this mail. There was much speaking, kava drinking---which is a Samoan custom accompanying almost every gathering of this kind,---an elaborate feast, 'taalolo' and 'siva.'" (Lieutenant J.L. Jayne, Acting Commandant, U.S. Naval Station Tutuila, wrote this letter to the Assistant Secretary of the Navy in support of Captain Tilley, who had been the subject of attacks by Harry Jay Moors and others).

On November 23, 1952, John C. Elliott completed his term as American Samoa's second appointed civil governor.

On November 23, 1998, Tuilaepa Sailele Malielegaoi became Prime Minister of Western Samoa.

On November 24, 1939, American Samoa's last execution was carried out. Imoa, who was convicted of stabbing Sema to death, was hanged in the Customs House.

On November 25, 1904, on Tutuila, the U.S. Government purchased "Parcel No. 48: Blunts Point," totalling 3.40 acres, from "Fano & E.W. Gurr," for \$804.55. (This transaction was completed on December 2, 1904).

On November 25, 1907, American Samoa's Governor, Commander Charles Brainard Taylor Moore, issued his "Regulation No. 12-1907: County of Ta'u in the District of Manu'a," which combined the villages of Si'ufaga and Luma "into a county to be known as the county of Ta'u," and stated that "The chiefs of said county shall be Leftiti of Si'ufaga and Soatoa of Luma, who shall hold the office of county chief during alternate years..."

On November 27, 1901, Commander Benjamin Franklin Tilley completed his term as American Samoa's first naval governor.

On November 27, 1901, Captain Uriel Sebree took office as American Samoa's second naval governor (until December 16, 1902).



**DBAS issues
notice of
funding
availability for
the
HUD-HOME
program**

The Development Bank of American Samoa expects to receive an estimated \$268,261 for the HOME Investment Partnership (HOME) program, funded by the US Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) for the federal program year 2007.

Furthermore, DBAS expects to have available, an additional \$246,500 in HOME program Income funds to be used for rehabilitation and renovation of existing single-family homes.

Only those who are American Samoa nationals, US citizens or permanent residents are eligible to apply, and it will be on a first come, first serve basis.

The funds provide long-term mortgage financing for the construction of new homes in the territory. The new homes must be built according to standard plans already approved by DBAS and available at their office in the Lumana'i Building in Fagatogo.

Custom plans and modifications to the standard plans are not permitted. Home plans include choices of 1, 2, or 3 bedroom homes.

DBAS will help members of the community who may be interested in applying by conducting application information sessions where applications and information regarding the HUD HOME Program will be made available.

The location and dates for the sessions are listed below:

<u>DATE</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>District</u>	<u>Place</u>
11/27	9 a.m.	Western	Pava'ia'i
11/28	9 a.m.	Eastern	Pago Pago
11/29	9 a.m.	Manu'a (Ofu, Olosega, Sili)	Laoa o Siva
12/03	9 a.m.	Manu'a (Ta'u, Fitiuta, Faleasao)	Manu'a HS gym

Everyone is encouraged to provide all necessary and required documents at the DBAS office where staff members will be on hand to assist the customer in filling out their application form.

Required documents and applications will be accepted on Dec. 17 at 9 a.m., while the deadline for applications is Dec. 21 at 3 p.m.

Completed applications must be received directly and date stamped by the ASG-HUD HOME program coordinator, Ms. Easter Kim, no later than Dec. 21. Any applications received thereafter will not be processed.

Only signed and completed applications will be accepted for review, and all applicants will receive a written response from ASG/DBAS regarding the status of their application after the review process is complete.

Successful applicants will have ten days following the notification, to comply with all approval conditions.

The construction funds are expected to be made available as early as January 2008.

Togiola urges parents to talk to their kids about proper conduct

Governor Togiola Tulafono is urging all local parents to talk to their children about practicing proper behavior and etiquette in public places, specifically when riding on public transportation.

The issue was raised during the Governor's weekend radio program where Togiola was surprised to discover that bus drivers were refusing to pick up high school students not because they pay a lower fare than adults – which was the assumption - but because according to the bus drivers, the majority of teenagers are very unruly and disrespectful.

Over the past year, many parents have complained that their children are not able to catch a ride on the bus because bus drivers opt to pick up adults and full-fared passengers. (Most of the buses charge 50-cents for students, which is half of what adults pay).

However, according to some bus drivers, their decision to pass up students who signal for a ride has nothing to do with money but instead, uncontrollable behavior that includes tagging the interior of the bus with graffiti that include curse words, making out in front of the other passengers, and conversing in extremely loud voices.

Togiola, who apparently had never heard the bus drivers' side of the story, was shocked to hear their explanation, and encouraged all parents to teach their kids how to behave in public. Last year, many local parents were complaining that the bus drivers were, in a sense, discriminating against their children.

"The bus drivers refuse to pick up my kids and their friends because they don't pay as much as others," one parent exclaimed. Bus drivers were being accused of greed and foul treatment at the time, and still today.

Now, thanks to the Governor's weekend radio program, for the first time, the complaining parents and everyone else got a chance to hear the other side of the story.

Samoa National Nursing Association opens local office

To assist the general public with health issues, the Samoa National Nursing Association (SNNA) has established a local office thanks in part to grant funding of \$125,000 from the US Department of Interior's Office of Insular Affairs.

The new local office is a third for the SNNA, which has headquarters in Carson, CA and a second office in Tacoma, WA - areas of which are home to a large concentration of Samoan families.

The SNNA is a non-profit group that was established in 1996 and works to promote, advocate, identify, define, target and serve the Pacific Islander community in providing quality health education, recommendations, research, guidance, and services.

SNNA executive director Marion Hannemann, board chair Sala Mataali'i, project director Siniva Driggers (Tacoma office), and project coordinator Dorothy Vaivao (Carson office), have traveled to the territory to set up the new local office, located on the first floor of the Tedi Building in Fagatogo.

An official celebration was held at the Equator Restaurant last weekend where Governor Togiola Tulafono and First Lady Maryann, along with Lt. Gov. Ipulasi and his wife Elisapeta and a number of local health care professionals and nurses were in attendance.

SNNA aims to address education and awareness on various health issues, stressing prevention and early detection. The group provides health education in the areas of diabetes, breast cancer, cervical cancer, hypertension, prostate health, gout, obesity, immunization, and nutrition.

In addition, SNNA also offers translation services, health policy education, health care provider training, monthly breast cancer support groups, outreach programs, and support for the care of the elderly.

The OIA grant for SNNA was made available after talks with Governor Togiola Tulafono, the American Samoa Community College, and the LBJ Medical Center.

The SNNA is continuously seeking financial resources through federal grants and private foundations. More information about the group can be found at <www.sнна.org> or by calling 633-5344.

SHARE IMPORTANT INFORMATION & ACTIVITIES

with your ASG workforce as well as the citizens of American Samoa. Email your articles, announcements, pictures or other information to: Harry Stevens (harry.stevens@americansamoa.gov) or Vince Iuli (vince.iuli@americansamoa.gov)

ASCC Students Participate in Island-Wide Volleyball League

By James Kneubuhl, ASCC Press Officer

Most people would probably associate the American Samoa Community College (ASCC) with academics rather than sports, but Physical Education instructor Ed Imo and his staff have been working steadily to increase the College's profile in athletics. For the first time in several years, the College recently placed its boys' and girls' volleyball teams in the American Samoa Volleyball Association Shield League, and Imo says that an increasing number of students now show an interest in adding athletic activity to their academic pursuits at ASCC.



*ASCC Volleyball coach Simanu Solomona (far right) and members of the boys' and girls' teams prepare to practice for their matches in the American Samoa Volleyball Association Shield League.
(Photo: J. Kneubuhl)*

"Most of the volleyball team members started off playing the game just as part of their PE classes," Imo recalls. "From there, some of them organized themselves into a team, which in turn attracted other students. We also held intramural matches among the various student clubs, with the Student Government Organization helping us coordinate, and this attracted even more players for our teams." With the Shield League games currently in progress, the ASCC boys' volleyball team has done fairly well so far, with wins in six out of ten matches. The girls' team has yet to catch up, managing only a single win in five matches, but Imo says not to count them out so soon.

The American Samoa Volleyball Association Shield League consists of nine women's teams and no less than 21 men's teams put together by schools, villages, clubs and businesses. Following the preliminary "round robin" series of matches now taking place, where each club gets to play every other club at least once, the top four teams who emerge will compete for the title of Champions.

The ASCC boys' team has ten more matches to go, and the girls' have five, in this phase of the competition.

While the upsurge in interest in volleyball looks encouraging for athletics at the College, Imo said that he and his coaches make sure to stress the importance of each student maintaining his/her academic standing. "Each student who wants to participate has to have a grade point average of 2.5 or better," he explained. "We don't want these students' athletic activities to compromise their performance in the classroom. Actually, we see sports as adding something valuable to the students' overall experience at ASCC, since it gives them the opportunity to learn about teamwork, sportsmanship and physical fitness. If nothing else, they come away with a better understanding of how to play a particular sport, which they can always share with others."

Imo also emphasized his belief that, given the right training, students from American Samoa can excel in other mainstream sports in addition to football. He cites as an example the recent success of ASCC student Ata Perese from the village of Amaua, who recently received an offer of a basketball scholarship from Brigham Young University. In anticipation of playing for BYU-Hawaii, Ata took the current semester off from ASCC to concentrate on developing his skills as fully as possible, and to participate in overseas competitions in Australia, New Zealand, Hawaii and elsewhere.

With bringing more diversity in athletics to American Samoa's youth as their long-term goal, Imo and his staff also focus on the short-term goal of just giving interested ASCC students the opportunity to play. "We open the gym to informal games every weekday at lunchtime," explained coach Simanu Solomona. "I notice more and more kids coming by to join in, which indicates how they have a strong interest in sports. Some kids said they felt discouraged about attending ASCC because they thought they wouldn't have the same opportunities in athletics as they did in high school, but this level of participation shows how the students will create opportunities for themselves. We just supply the means for them to do that."

AS-EPA Staff Certify Water Quality Labs in Palau and Yap

(ASEPA Press Release) American Samoa Environmental Protection Agency (AS-EPA) staff members Edna Buchan and Lt. Elena Vaouli of the US Public Health Service recently certified the Water Quality Laboratories of the Palau Environmental Quality Protection Board (EQPB) and the Yap State Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). Analysts from both labs were also certified.

The US Freely Associated States (FAS) Laboratory Certification Program was first proposed at the June 2006 Pacific Islands Environmental Directors and Managers meeting held at Kona, Hawaii. At the meeting, the Directors of the FAS water quality programs, including Federated States of Micronesia (Chuuk, Kosrae, Pohnpei and Yap), the Republic of Palau, and the Republic of the Marshall Islands, expressed a need to improve operational standards for their labs. The AS-EPA Director Fanuatele Dr. Toafa Vaiaga'e accepted the request from the Pacific Islands that needed AS-EPA's technical assistance to help out with certifying their laboratories.

The AS-EPA Director supports this partnership program whole heartedly because certification of laboratory facilities and personnel (as analysts) is necessary to ensure that a laboratory produces scientifically valid and legally defensible data, which further ensures that the data presented to the public is reliable. He said "Since AS-EPA is way ahead, due to our participation in the lab certification program conducted by the Federal Government (USEPA), it is an honor for me to lend a helping hand to our sister islands through this valuable partnership program". The FAS lab certification program was designed and developed over the following twelve months by Buchan (Water Program manager) and LT Vaouli (Deputy Water Program manager and US Public Health Service officer). "To take this program from concept to implementation in a single year was a lot of work", said Ms. Buchan, "and admittedly, we are proud of our accomplishments".

The Palau and Yap labs are the first labs in the FAS to be certified under the new program. According to Lt. Vaouli, "Palau and Yap have excellent laboratories and well qualified staff; we hope other labs in the FAS will follow their example". LT Vaouli also added that she wants people to be assured that AS EPA is not neglecting work at home, as staff reach out across the Pacific to help other islands; the AS EPA lab and analysts passed their US EPA certification review in September 2007. Certification audits for the Marshall Islands and the other FSM states are planned for 2008.

As AS-EPA Director, Dr. Vaiaga'e said "We are proud to have provided the lead in the development and implementation of this important program to help our sister islands, and AS-EPA will continue to provide this service to the FAS islands whenever the need may arise".

DBAS loan program awards \$350K to locals for holiday home repairs

Although the initial amount of loan awards was expected to total \$200,000 the Development Bank of American Samoa ended up increasing that amount by \$150,000, bringing the total amount of holiday home repair/renovation loans to a whopping \$350,000.

According to DBAS credit manager Jason Betham, a total of 46 applications were accepted. Of that number, 35 loans were approved and checks were disbursed as of Nov. 16.

"The number of applicants indicates a great need for home repairs island-wide," Betham remarked. "We stopped taking applications when we knew we had enough to use the \$200,000 that was available. We were fortunate to find the additional funding of about \$150,000 to make all the loans that were approved."

The public was buzzing last month when DBAS announced, through the media, that a total of \$200,000 was being made available to local residents who wanted to make repairs and renovations to their homes for the upcoming holiday season.

"This is not actually a 'new program'," Betham explained. "It is our Direct Home Repair Program that had been closed due to the unavailability of funds." Betham said that DBAS is hoping to open both this and the Direct New Home Construction Program from time to time as funds are accumulated. (Direct programs are funded from the repayments of existing DBAS loans).

Applications were reviewed on a first come, first served basis. Betham said that the selection process was conducted by DBAS loan officers who recommended approval or decline after applying the bank's credit policies.

Betham reviewed each recommendation for support before submitting the paperwork to DBAS CEO Utu Abe Malae who, upon approving the applications, forwarded the documents to the loan committee (comprised of two board members), for final approval.

Those who missed out on applying for the holiday home repair loan program are reminded that DBAS will also be making available, funds under the HUD program by next month, as advertised. DBAS boasts an approval rate of about 76%.

Betham concluded, "This program was launched in the spirit of renovating homes for the Christmas holidays but it came just in time to spiffing up the territory for the Pacific Arts Festival next year!"

Governor Togiola launches scholarship program for ASG workers

For the first time ever, the American Samoa Government is offering its employees the added benefit - and rare opportunity - of pursuing a graduate degree.

The program, initiated by Governor Togiola Tulafono, is being sponsored by the ASG Professional Development Scholarship Program.

The program, which offers a master's degree in Leadership and Counseling from San Diego State University, was launched on Nov. 9 during a brief ceremony in the Governor's Office.

Those in attendance included Dr. Fred Macfarlane of SDSU's Rehabilitation and Post-Secondary Education and Interwork Institute, scholarship board chairman Rev. Ned Ripley, board member Fofu Sunia, and the 26 local candidates who will be pursuing their graduate degrees in the program.

In his remarks, Togiola described the program as one of the most ambitious and far reaching programs of this Administration.

"Our goal is to improve the services we offer as a government - to our people. To do that, we need to upgrade the qualification and skills of our core of public servants," said the Governor. "I have said this often enough in the past, and today, we are on the move."

He added that after reviewing most of the critical areas of services, it was decided that the manpower upgrade begin with counseling services.

"Why? It is because we are a society in transition. Most of the developments today are new to our people," Togiola said. "Our hopes for tomorrow can almost be described in one word: Education."

According to Togiola, the selection of school counseling was because of its critical role in education. When teachers, parents, and students blend properly, Togiola said only then will our education system feature "good schools." And one of the key ways to reach that goal is through school counseling.

The Governor believes that school counselors are coordinators who see to it that all elements are properly interfaced. "They are a special breed of educators," he added.

Togiola referred to the counseling services being offered by the Department of Human and Social Services and said that although DHSS offers counseling services in the critical areas of anger management, child abuse, domestic violence, abandonment, and sexual abuse, "it is irresponsible to think we can just offer counseling without a special solid background and special training."

And that is why DHSS counselors fill a number of slots in the new program. "We want to see their skills and competence upgraded," Togiola said. "I believe that when a worker knows what they are doing, they will do it well. I am confident this higher level of education will provide a solid foundation for these young counselors."

Togiola said that other government departments that may wonder why they are not included in the program when counseling services are needed at their offices need not feel neglected, as this is just the beginning, and the overall plan is to cover all areas of public services in this upgrade system.

Togiola said that in addition to the new counseling and leadership program, the ASG is also expecting to start a cohort in accounting by January, and one in law enforcement shortly thereafter.

Togiola's hope is that in five years time, all basic government services will have been covered under the skills and qualification upgrade efforts.

"It is a major undertaking for ASG, and it is one that is long overdue," Togiola remarked.

Dr. Fred Macfarlane addressed those in attendance and said, "It is our intent in working with you to foster education, and to foster it both with colleagues here, and throughout your government. I look forward to two years from now when you, Governor, will be able to sit with us and we will confer the master's degree to all these colleagues here. That will be a great celebration. But, it won't be a commencement that ends their learning; it will only be one step in their continued learning. I wish each of you the very best. I look forward to working with you and you teaching us during the course of the next two years."

The first course of the master's degree program began Nov. 10

ASEPA receives first ever \$300K grant under Brownsfields Program

The American Samoa Environmental Protection Agency (ASEPA) has received, for the first time ever, a grant award of \$300,000 under the new "Brownsfields" program for the assessment and inventories of sites on Tutuila and Manu'a that are potentially contaminated with industrial and hazardous wastes.

The grant was recently awarded by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region IX (San Francisco).

The program, called "Brownsfields", is new to the ASEPA and this is the first grant of its kind for the Territory.

ASEPA director Fanuatele Dr. To'afa Vaiaga'e is excited about the award, which he said has been enjoyed by other US territories like Guam and the Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas Islands (CNMI) in the past years.

He explained that the reason why the territory never received the award before was because an application was never submitted for it. *(Continued on page 9)*



ASPA Provides Plan, Timetable to Improve Bay Area Water Pressure

ASPA's senior management today announced a plan and timetable to improve the bay area water pressure. Michael Keyser, Acting Chief Executive Officer, said, "Low water pressure is not acceptable to me or my staff. Improving the pressure in the bay area, as well as other chronically low areas, is a major focus for this fiscal year. The purpose of this press release is to tell the public that we have a plan and we intend to implement it. We may not be able to resolve everything, but we will try."

Reno Vivao, Acting Chief Operations Officer, said, "The plan takes into account a variety of solutions, including expanding transmission lines, adding new wells, and increasing storage capacity."

An immediate solution involves ASPA's Vaipito microfiltration plant. Neemia Mareko, Water Division Manager, said, "Repair and improvement on the microfiltration plant is expected to be completed in November. The plant supplements the peak demands of the bay area, and when fully operational will ease up the draining of the supply from the villages of Utulei to Fagatogo." Added Mr. Vivao, "Break-ins and vandalism at the plant have resulted in damage to our equipment. This causes the plant to not operate at full capacity. I urge the public to please respect the plant. It is essential to pressurizing the bay area."

Another solution is completion of the transmission line between Avau and Nuuli. Mr. Vivao said, "By February 2008, we will have completely replaced the old, leaking 12 inch diameter pipeline from Faga'alu to Nuuli with a 16 inch diameter PVC pipeline. When completed, this new transmission line will almost double the carrying capacity of the existing pipe. We expect the final phase to be finished by February." Added Mr. Mareko, "While it is not a total solution, some bay area residents should see a marked improvement in pressure when this comes online." Once the new transmission pipeline is complete, the ASPA tramway booster station will be reactivated to pump the excess water in the Fagatogo area to the ASPA tramway tank. "We are currently in the process of identifying a source of funding for this phase of the operation," said Mr. Keyser.

Mr. Mareko said, "New wells should be coming online this year, which will supplement supply." This includes a well in the Pavaiai area, which will be commissioned in March 2008. When in full production, this well will add an additional 200 gallons per minute to the system. Added Mr. Vivao, "We also intend to drill a test well in Nuuli. If the test proves successful, the water will be pumped directly into to Nuuli transmission line. This means that more water will be available in the bay area system."

"Another necessary aspect to our plan is storage," said Mr. Keyser. ASPA intends to construct two new 500,000 gallon storage tanks in the bay area. Said Mr. Vivao, "These tanks will serve the customers residing in the higher levels and supplement supply to the lower levels." Joachim Fong, ESD Manager, added, "Due to archaeological and other pre construction issues, these may take longer to come online. However, our plan is to have them operational sometime in fiscal year 2008."

"Additionally, we intend to commission a bay area water facilities plan, which will serve as a tool in analyzing the different pressure zones in the bay area and identifying the points of emphasis for infrastructure improvement," said Mr. Fong. Mr. Keyser added, "The facilities plan is critical to obtaining federal funding for future projects, as well."

Joachim Fong said, "As for LBJ Hospital specifically, a test well will soon be drilled near the hospital. If this well proves to be productive, water supply in this area will no longer be dependent primarily on the central system." Added Mr. Vivao, "This frees us up to concentrate the water supply coming from the Tafuna area directly to the bay area." Said Mr. Mareko, "Additionally, a 100,000 gallon tank is proposed to be constructed within the vicinity of the proposed well. This tank is envisaged to balance the pressure within the Fagaalu area which in effect will not deprive the bay area of their water demand."

ASEPA Grant under Brownsfields Program *(continued from page 8)*

According to Fanuatele, it was when he attended a meeting with several colleagues from Region IX two years ago that he heard about the program. Shortly thereafter, Carl Goldstein, a consultant from USEPA's Region IX who works closely with the ASEPA got the ball rolling by working together with several counterparts from Guam and CNMI to draft up a proposal for American Samoa.

Fanuatele said that assistance was sought from Guam and CNMI as they are similar to the territory as far as geographical location and weather conditions.

Fanuatele is proud of the fact that ASEPA managed to secure the grant funding after applying for the first time ever last year.

"I just want to recognize the efforts of Carl Goldstein, the good folks at Region IX, and of course, my local staff here at the ASEPA office that made this all possible," a proud Fanuatele remarked.

He added that the grant funding is an annual thing, meaning that the ASEPA anticipates to apply for it every year from now on. Fanuatele concluded, "This is a lot of money that we can use for the operations of the local ASEPA office."

(Please see page 10 for conclusion)

Brownsfields Program (conclusion of ASEPA \$300K grant under Brownsfields Program from page 9)



ASEPA Director Fanuatele Dr. To'afa
Vaiaga'e

We here at the ASEPA are doing everything we can to provide the people of American Samoa with quality service and this money helps us do just that."

It is expected that the grant money will be increased every year.

The ASEPA will use the funding to conduct community outreach activities, and to survey, inventory, and conduct assessments for potential sites in American Samoa that may require cleanup and re-development efforts.

The Brownsfield program encourages re-development of America's estimated 450,000 abandoned and contaminated waste sites.

According to the ASEPA, since the beginning of the program, the USEPA has awarded 1.067 assessment grants totaling more than \$262 million, 217 revolving loan fund grants totaling more than \$201.7 million, and 336 cleanup grants totaling \$61.3 million.

In addition to industrial and commercial re-development, Brownsfields approaches have included the conversion of industrial waterfronts to river-front parks, landfills to golf courses, rail corridors to recreational trails, and gas stations to housing.

USEPA's Brownsfields assistance has leveraged more than \$9.6 billion in cleanup and re-development, helped create more than 43,029 jobs, resulted in the assessment of more than 10,504 properties, and cleanup of 180 properties.

Lt. Matthew Vojik, a US Public Health Service engineer who is detailed to the ASEPA, is assigned as the ASEPA Brownsfields program manager. Lt. Vojik will coordinate Brownsfields objectives with ASEPA Air & Land Program Manager Fa'amao Asalele, and ASEPA director Fanuatele Vaiaga'e who pursued the development and implementation of the Brownsfields Program for the past two years.

More information on the Brownsfields Program can be found by visiting <<http://www.epa.gov/brownsfields>> or contacting Lt. Vojik or Fa'amao Asalele directly at 633-2304.

USS *Samoa* (CB-6): The Ship That Never Was

Transcribed and edited by Stan Sorensen

The name *Samoa* was selected for CB-6, an *Alaska* class large cruiser ordered on September 9, 1940 from New York Shipbuilding Corporation, Camden, New Jersey. The *Alaska* class battlecruisers (officially called "large cruisers" by the US Navy) were built to counter the threat posed by the German "pocket battleships" (*Graf Spee* and her sister ships), the battlecruisers *Scharnhorst*, *Gneisenau* and *Prinz Eugen*, and the *Chichibu* class battlecruisers which Japan was rumored to be building (but never did).

The six *Alaskas*, designated as "CBs", were to be named after United States Territories, as follows: CB-1: *Alaska*; CB-2: *Guam*; CB-3: *Hawaii*; CB-4: *Philippines*; CB-5: *Puerto Rico*; CB-6: *Samoa*. Only *Alaska* and *Guam* were completed. Both saw action in the last campaigns of World War II: Iwo Jima and Okinawa. *Hawaii* was laid up incomplete, and scrapped in 1960. The other three ships never got off the drawing board.

Although *Samoa* was scheduled for completion by December 1, 1946, all available materials and slipways were allocated to higher priority ships: aircraft carriers, destroyers, and submarines. This postponed her keel laying until large cruisers were no longer required. *Samoa's* construction, never begun, was finally cancelled on June 24, 1943. If USS *Samoa* had been built, her statistics would have been like USS *Alaska* (CB-1), as follows:

Displacement: 27,000 tons; length: 806'6"; beam: 91'1"; draft: 27'1" (mean); speed: 31.4 knots; complement: 2,251; armament: nine 12" guns, 12 5", 56 40 mm., 34 20 mm.; aircraft: 4 Vought OS2U *Kingfisher* or Curtiss SC-1 *Seahawk* observation aircraft.

Armor: 9' belt, 12 4/5" turrets, 1 2/5" + 4" + 5/8" decks; machinery: 150,000 SHP; G.E. geared turbines, 4 screws.